



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/671,496 | 09/29/2003 | Ching Yuch | YUEH3008/EM | 1524 |
| 23364 | 7590 | 11/09/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | NGUYEN, NINH H | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3745 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,496

Applicant(s)

YUEH, CHING

Examiner

Ninh H. Nguyen

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis for the limitation “the fan unit” on line 1 of claim 2. It is unclear which fan unit Applicant is referring to since claim 1, which claim 2 is dependent from, recites “at least two fan units”. Claims 3 and 4 are indefinite as being dependent on claim 2.

Applicant should consider replacing “the fan unit” with --each of the fan units-- to avoid indefiniteness. Note that it is assumed that each of the fan units comprises a box body in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (5,403,162).

Chen discloses a fan with multi-directional wind (Figs. 1-6), comprising at least two fan units 24, 26 stacked vertically (Fig. 1); a shaft 65 disposed between the two fan units, wherein

Art Unit: 3745

each of the two fan units being integrally formed via the shaft, such that different directions of air movement off the fan units being adjusted with the shaft as pivot (col. 1, lines 54-56);

wherein a base 22 is further disposed underneath the fan unit stacked at the bottommost;

wherein a shaft 64 is disposed between the fan unit stacked at the bottommost and the base, and wherein the shaft is for integrally forming the fan unit stacked at the bottommost and the base;

wherein the fan unit stacked at the bottommost and the base are integrally formed (Fig. 1);

wherein through holes are disposed in the shaft (col. 2, lines 53-55; Fig. 6);

wherein the fan is further disposed with a switch assembly for turning on, turning off or switching speeds of the motors in the fan units (col. 3, lines 7-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-4, as far as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Ferre (6,779,786).

Chen discloses all the limitations except each of the fan units does not comprise a box body having a motor and a plurality of blades driven by the motor disposed therein as claimed.

Art Unit: 3745

Ferre teaches a box fan which produces good airflow in an energy efficient way (col. 1, lines 26-17); the fan comprising an impeller attached to a motor both disposed in a box housing comprising a top wall, a right wall, a left wall, and a bottom wall, a front side, and a rear side; wherein the front side and the rear side each is fitted with a fan guard.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to make the fan with multi-direction of Chen with the each fan unit being a box fan of Ferre for the purpose of providing fan units with good airflow in an energy efficient manner as taught by Ferre.

Prior Art

The prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of 2 patents.

Kirsch (D101,740) and Thompson (5,370,500) are cited to show different fan configurations.

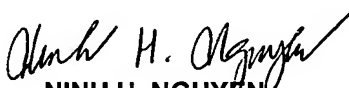
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Ninh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0061 or (571) 272-4823 after November 18, 2004. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Art Unit: 3745

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached at (703) 308-1044 or (571) 272-4820 after November 18, 2004. The fax number for this group is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or contact the Electronic Business center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


NINH H. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Nhn
November 5, 2004